

# THE SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE

THE Minister for Education, Mr R. A. Butler, has outlined his dream of the schools Britain needs. He has already given us a far-reaching Education Act which will affect the lives of all our children in the years to come. He has now added to his hopes and ambitions a determination to erect new school-buildings where in light and beauty the bodies and souls of the pupils may expand and develop.

Mr Butler's dream is of spacious, simple buildings, wide open on sunny, clear days, warm and intimate in wintertime. He wants light and air, green fields and gardens, swimming pools and gymnasia. As William Morris dreamed of a London "small and white and clean," so Mr Butler has outlined the ideal school where the pupil not only learns for his livelihood, but learns how to live.

Mr Butler recognises that intimate and sensitive link between mind and spirit in the growing child which may be strengthened or weakened during school days. The dream is of the right environment matched with the right teaching. Mr Butler has not been content with providing a magnificent vision of a Britain re-equipped in mind, but he has supplied the setting within which that re-equipment may proceed.

## Lessons of the Past

The child learns by the place he lives and works in. How often in the past we have failed to put that sound doctrine into practice. Within every English town are the gaunt, grim buildings in which generations of children have been taught. Many of these buildings are dark and devious in their construction, with narrow stairways to storeys high above the ground. There, in rooms poorly supplied with light and air, the supreme task of educating the nation's children goes forward, provisioned and captained by a fine generation of schoolteachers who with bad buildings and uninspiring surroundings have struggled to give their charges some vision of the glory of learning as well as a sound foundation in the elements of knowledge.

For many years, too, hundreds of small country schools have stood on the "black list" as unsuitable for children to use. Much sentiment and affection have, no doubt, gathered round these little village schools from which the bell has rung for years, drawing the children from remote farms and hamlets. Within these one-roomed schools, above the hum of a summer day or through the driving weather of winter, much faithful teaching has gone on. Here the modern "village Hampdens" and the successors to the "rude forefathers of the hamlet" have been led to the gateway of knowledge and have seen a little of the bracing uplands of understanding which stretch in wonder from its threshold.

## A Liberal Education

Old England has been well served by its old school buildings, but their narrow, cramped rooms, their gloomy passages, their hard, paved playgrounds, their meagre equipment, are not adequate for the new generation with all its responsibilities. We must use the gifts which science and invention have showered on us for the benefit of the children so that colour, beauty, space, light,

and air can be combined into an environment which in itself shall be a liberal education.

THE child learns, as we are so often warned, by those things which are left unsaid as much as by those which are said. Give him a beautiful room and a beautiful view, and there is excellent chance of his having beauty in his mind. A wise philosopher once remarked that he could live anywhere, even in the ugliest places, because as a young man he had had three years amid the beauty and glory of Oxford. He had been given that peerless gift in his youth when his mind had readily absorbed the wonder of it all. He had not listened to any lecture explaining it; there it was, speaking to him silently day by day, adding romance to the remembrance of his youth.

## Only the Best is Good Enough

The new schools of the future will speak in silent beauty to the coming generations of our children. They will be symbols of the steadfast belief which was born in us in days of tragedy and war that we should build better for the children yet to come than we built for those of the past. The new schools must proclaim that only the very best that science and art, the craftsman and the planner, the builder and designer can devise will be good enough to produce men and women worthy of a great nation.

A SCHOOL is not only a place of desks and teachers, black-boards and books. The new schools will give adequate space to the education of the physical bodies of their pupils. The intimate relationships of a healthy body and a healthy mind are, at last, being realised. A nation healthy is a nation capable of learning and doing. Without trained teaching in health there can be little hope of a sound nation. The new schools will be homes of beauty in mind and body where, as in the days of ancient Greece, the grace of limb and the grace of wit may be matched, and the new creation of a whole man may enrich our national resources.

## The Silent Revolution

The new schools will welcome parents too. There, together, parent and child may learn from a fine and inspiring atmosphere, discovering something of the hidden secret of life. Parents will be expected to play their part, bridging the gulf between school and home in a new comradeship of fellowship and understanding.

Here is one of the revolutions which are slowly and silently making the new Britain, bringing new wonder to drab cities and trailing a tale of romance through the lives of our children.

THE new schools—in their fresh paint and colour, amid the splendour of grass and trees, with their theatres for the romance of history and legend, their libraries for the reservoirs of story and achievement, their laboratories to open the closed secrets of the universe, and their gymnasia and swimming pools for the training of the fit body to envelop the healthy mind—will become a nation's pride. Nothing must prevent our achievement of this great aim—no vested interest, no narrow partisanship. Let local pride be merged with a national pride, having for its motto the very best we can provide for our children for the world of tomorrow.

CHILDREN'S EVERY TUESDAY 3d  
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## Churchill and Stalin

These two lion cubs, born at Paignton Zoo, have been named after the two great Allied leaders.

## THE PREMIER'S RIBBONS

THREE rows of medal ribbons adorn the breast of our Prime Minister when in uniform. They form the proud record of Mr Winston Churchill's war experiences in many parts of the world. For Mr Churchill, who celebrated his seventieth birthday last week, has led as full and exciting a life as any man of his age.

The first of his ribbons is of the Chitral medal, won on the North-West frontier of India when fighting the turbulent tribesmen there in 1897-1898. Next comes the Sudan medal for his part with Lord Kitchener's Nile Expeditionary Force against the fanatical Dervishes in the Sudan in 1898. Young Lieut Churchill was then with the 21st Lancers in their famous charge at the Battle of Omdurman.

After this he won the Queen's South African medal in the Boer War in 1899, when he was taken prisoner and escaped.

For the last war Mr Churchill wears the 1915 medal and the General Service and Victory medals. After these come King George V Coronation, Jubilee, King George VI Coronation, and the Territorial Decoration for long service.

Next come foreign decorations. The Spanish 1st Class Order of Military Merit which he won in 1895 when in order to gain experience he went with the Spanish army to Cuba, where there was a rebellion. The next ribbon is the Philippines medal, then the United States Distinguished Service Medal, won in the last war, and the Khedive's medal for the Sudan campaign.

## Churches on Wheels

EVEN while the great battles in Western Europe are being fought, our soldiers do not neglect their worship. Field-Marshal Montgomery sets a good example to his men in this respect, attending church services regularly.

To ensure that no army unit shall be without facilities for worship, two mobile churches—wheeled vehicles—move from place to place behind the battle-fronts in Western Europe, ministering to units which have no regular chaplain.

Each of these mobile churches has room for a small congregation for Holy Communion, and is also fitted with amplifying apparatus to carry the sound of recorded church bells and hymn tunes to our men in the field.

These moving temples of worship were dedicated by the late Archbishop of Canterbury, and are named St Paul and St George.

By a most happy coincidence the Church of St Paul had its first service in the Normandy village of St Paul.



## Britain's Mighty War Effort

MORE than 102,000 aeroplanes, 25,000 tanks and 722 big war-ships—these are some of the outstanding contributions by Britain to the Allied war effort.

Two White Papers recently issued by our Government, and a Report by President Roosevelt, describe this British effort.

Britain's exertions for victory have been relatively greater than those of any other belligerent. Of her population of 46,750,000 some 5,500,000 men have served in the Armed Forces, and over half a million have become casualties. Over half a million women are in uniform. Over 17 million persons are employed in production.

The speed and efficiency with which the enemy has been driven back to his own borders can be said, however, to be due mainly to the pooling of their resources by the Allies.

When President Roosevelt introduced the Lend-Lease system he undoubtedly shortened this war by many months, for the British people at home and overseas adopted the idea, and by Reverse Lend-Lease have helped their Allies to the value of over a thousand million pounds.

By the end of last June we had aided the USA with goods, services, and facilities valued at over £600,000,000; and our supplies to Russia were worth nearly £270,000,000.

The aid we gave to the USA included the carrying to Britain in British ships of some 850,000 Americans in uniform, of whom 320,000 came over in those giant liners the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth, and the accommodation, in readiness for D Day, of vast American armies in villages and towns throughout the country.

Our railways, roads, and canals were strained to the utmost to provide the transport for American forces and their supplies.

In our densely-populated islands, with all our own military, agricultural, and other needs, we provided 133 airfields for the U.S. Army Air Force. In one agricultural area alone, 3000 civilians were removed and eight

villages evacuated to provide space for training with live ammunition.

For the invasion of Western Europe our assistance to America was tremendous, including extensive underground headquarters and a Mulberry harbour.

Any new inventions, and discoveries, such as jet propulsion and penicillin, were at once revealed to our Ally, and among the new devices supplied to their forces in equal measure with our own were Bailey bridges, jettison fuel tanks, made from our waste paper, petrol jerricans (over seven million this year), and aeroplane sparking plugs five times more efficient than before.

Among the supplies we sent to Russia last year were 1042 tanks, 6135 miles of cable and 195 naval guns.

Generous, great-hearted President Roosevelt informed the American Congress of what the mutual aid system had accomplished and especially of Great Britain's part in it. He gave Britain and British workers the highest praise; and, among many interesting facts, he disclosed that a third of the supplies and equipment required by American troops in the British Isles had been provided by Great Britain, and in addition two-thirds of their quartermasters' supplies and nearly three-fifths of their engineers' supplies in the whole European theatre of war.

Summing up the results of this system of combined war supply, Mr Roosevelt said: "We already know how much it did to save us all from disaster. We know that it has brought and will bring victory months closer than would otherwise have been possible." And he goes on to declare that, though this kind of Mutual Aid must end with the war, the United Nations partnership must go on and must grow stronger in the task of building a peace that shall endure.

## A HERO OF ARNHEM

It is a sad thought indeed that Lance-Sergeant John Daniel Baskeyfield did not live to receive his VC, but the story of his daring and self-sacrifice will inspire the millions everywhere who are engaged in the great struggle for Liberation.

Sergeant Baskeyfield belonged to the South Staffordshire Regiment and his home was at Tunstall. He went to Arnhem with the 1st Airborne Division. While in charge of an anti-tank gun his position was attacked by the Germans. He, himself knocked out two Tiger tanks and at least one self-propelled gun by the daring tactic of letting the tanks come within a hundred yards of him before firing. But he was badly wounded in the leg, and all his men were either killed or wounded. He refused to go to the First Aid post and soon the Germans attacked again with even greater ferocity. Once more he beat them off. Then

his gun was knocked out. Under heavy fire he crawled to another gun of which all the crew had been killed. An enemy self-propelled gun raced towards him and he stopped it with two shots. While he was getting ready to fire again he was killed by a shell.

Thus passed another of those heroes of whom it has been written:

*Went the day well? We died and never knew.*

*But, well or ill, Freedom, we died for you.*

Sergeant Baskeyfield's VC is the 117th of this war.

## THINGS SEEN

At Epsom, a load of hay being pulled by a horse with a dog riding on the horse's back.

A pig, with collecting boxes attached, trotting about the streets of St Ives in Cornwall on Armistice Day.

## A GREAT SOLDIER PROMOTED

GENERAL SIR HAROLD ALEXANDER, commander of our armies in the bitter struggle in Italy, has been made a Field-Marshal. He is also to become Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean.

Sir Harold has done wonderful service for the Allied Cause. At the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940 he was the last Army Commander to leave the beaches. In Burma he skilfully organised the retreat from Rangoon, and by delaying the Japanese advance until the monsoon rains came saved India from invasion. Next he commanded armies in North Africa, and since then has directed the attack on the Germans in Italy.

## Master of His Art

With the passing of Sir George Clausen at 92, England has lost one of her great landscape artists. Senior member of the Royal Academy, he was formerly a professor of painting there and recognised as a gifted teacher. As a painter he had a wide range, from portraits and figure-studies to still-life subjects; but he found his best expression in landscape work, portraying the English country scene with a rare skill and understanding, and excelling particularly in his use of light and shade.

Though more than 50 years had passed since the Chantrey Bequest first purchased one of his paintings, Sir George Clausen remained youthful to the end, both in his work and his outlook; and he was ever sympathetic to the youthful artist.

## GOVERNMENT CHANGES

OF the new members of the Government recently appointed only one enters the Cabinet. He is Mr Duncan Sandys, who is now Minister of Works. This Ministry is concerned with the provision of new houses and the repair of damaged ones. Mr Churchill explained in a letter that it is very necessary to have a Minister in the House of Commons who can inform members of how this vital work is progressing.

Another change is the appointment of Sir Edward Grigg to be our Minister Resident in the Middle East. Captain Harold Balfour is going as Minister Resident in West Africa, and Commander Brabner is to be the new Air Under-Secretary.

## A Magnificent Gift

THE Scottish Youth Hostels Association has been presented with Carbisdale Castle in Ross-shire and the estate of Culrain where the Marquis of Montrose was defeated in 1650. The generous donor is Captain Harold K. Salvesen.

The castle has fifty rooms, including a ballroom, a library, and two spacious galleries, which will be available for conferences and exhibitions. There will be room for 250 hostellers, and special arrangements will be made for groups from schools or youth organisations.

The SYHA intend to make the castle a real link between the youth of south Scotland and the people and life in the north.

## LITTLE NEWS REELS

THE London Zoo had 692,289 visitors during the year ending October 31 last. Receipts were £43,631 less than in the previous year.

A public holiday was held in Jamaica, on November 20, when its new Constitution was proclaimed.

Sir Henry Maitland Wilson succeeds the late Sir John Dill as head of the British Joint Staff Mission in Washington.

A Sweets for Britain Fund is being launched in Australia. The sweets sent here will be of the hard candy variety.

America's latest super bomber, the B32, is to be known as the Dominator.

A doctor of the American Army Medical Corps, who has performed many brave deeds in Italy, was so nervous when making a speech in Liverpool that he fainted.

CANADA has given a warm welcome to a delegation of Chinese industrialists, engineers, and technicians who are visiting the Dominion. Canada, says her newspapers, wishes to do all she can to help China.

The new Waterloo Bridge, completed at last, was unofficially opened by Mr Hallett, a grocer, and his horse Nobby, drawing his van.

Children evacuated from dangerous areas in Britain will in many cases go to Christmas parties given by local authorities and welfare organisations.

## Liberation News Reel

THE concentration camp at Vught, Holland, now houses, as prisoners, the men that were its wardens in the German occupation.

Norwegians are now fighting with Allied troops on the Western Front.

The people of Dieppe not only showed Allied officers the location of mines in the dock area, but helped in the dangerous work of removing them.

American soldiers have given a plaque to the Merseyside people of Liverpool to commemorate their help and friendship for the USA troops.

Landslides caused by bombs from RAF machines blocked mountain roads in Yugoslavia along which German transport was retreating.

British prisoners of war in South-West Germany now receive Red Cross parcels every week, according to a prisoner's letter.

The seventh Victory Loan in Canada realised the record figure of 333 million pounds—8 million pounds more than the target.

All Macedonia has been liberated, and Marshal Tito's men have captured Titov, Yugoslavia's largest naval base.

## Youth News Reel

THE Certificate of Gallantry has been awarded to Scouts Robert Robson and George Sharman of the 11th Newcastle-on-Tyne Group. Noticing some curtains of a house in flames they broke the windows, hauled the curtains down, and then extinguished other fires inside.

More than 120,000 former Boy Scouts are now serving in Canada's armed forces.

The Puffin Patrol of the 64th Birkenhead Sea Scout Troop has three King's Scouts and four First Class Scouts.

Oranges, sardines, and onions, worth £5,500,000 are to be bought by Britain from Spain.

The school-leaving age will be raised to 15 sooner than was expected, the Minister of Education has announced.

Mr Edward Stettinius has become U.S. Secretary of State, succeeding Mr Cordell Hull who has resigned because of ill-health.

BRITISH soldiers in a command post in an empty house close to the front line in Germany were surprised when a little man in a bowler hat arrived. He explained in broken English that he had come to read the gas-meter. This he did and was told to send the bill to SHAEF.

A penny red Great Britain postage stamp of 1850 has been sold for £220 in London.

Mrs Barnardo, widow of the famous Dr Barnardo, has died at the age of 96. Right to the end she took an active interest in the great work of her late husband.

A woman who died recently at Weymouth had 56 grandchildren and 70 great-grandchildren.

During the first half of 1944, 330,000 people gave blood donations for transfusion, an increase of 100,000 on the same period of 1943. There are now a million volunteers giving their blood.

WVS workers in Leeds and other towns have opened at each depot a toy exchange to which children can bring toys they no longer need and choose others in their place.

A greatly increased number of Allied prisoners of war are escaping from Germany and crossing the Swiss frontier, states a report from Switzerland. The chaotic conditions in Germany are said to be responsible.

Men from the North of England, belonging to the 50th (Northumbrian) Division were the first to land in Normandy, and the first to reach Belgium, then Holland, then Germany. The division is nicknamed "Monty's Own."

In capturing Strasbourg the French General Leclerc fulfilled a vow he made to his soldiers in North Africa—that they would go to Paris and then on to Strasbourg.

THE latest American aircraft-carrier of the Essex class, the Bon Homme Richard, 27,000 tons, can carry about 80 planes.

Children of Metz put on their national costume and gathered round their cathedral singing the Marseillaise to celebrate the liberation of their city.

The daily output of coal in Belgium has risen from 15,000 tons in October to 40,000 tons now, and, in consequence, many Belgian industries will be able to start production again.

THE first Annual Meetings of the newly-constituted Wales District of The Boys Brigade have taken place in Cardiff.

Twelve-year-old Preston Ellsworth Koontop has been enrolled as the 12,000,000th member of the Boy Scouts of America since the movement was established at Washington 34 years ago.

Guide Rosemary Millner of Manchester, and Guide Jean Griffith of North Transvaal, have been awarded the Silver Cross for their gallantry in rescuing drowning people.



## Wales Honours Tom Jones

DR THOMAS JONES is a distinguished Civil Servant and a man of many parts. He is also a man of many honours, but we think that never in all his 74 years has he received an honour which will delight him more than the latest. For the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion has awarded him its Medal, and Wales can do no more, even for a son of Wales.

Founded in 1883, the medal is for outstanding service in art, literature, or science. Tom Jones has been busy with public affairs, always behind the scenes, for most of his life. But never has he been too busy

to find time for the arts. Libraries and museums everywhere in the Kingdom have found in him a noble and enthusiastic supporter.

He has been deputy chairman of CEMA in this war. He is one of the foremost educationists of his native land, a Companion of Honour, and secretary of the Pilgrim Trust. He is a delightful essayist, a rarely-gifted conversationalist, and a first-rate speaker. But above all, he is the most modest little man you could meet in a month of Sundays. A grand little Welshman is Dr Tom Jones!

## THE GRAVY NAVY

OPERATING from a quiet little office in Alexandria Mr S. W. Diplock, a Scot, runs a little navy of his own. He is area manager of the Naval Canteen Service, Eastern Mediterranean, and his little NAAFI fleet of canteen ships, known as the "Gravy Navy," is responsible for taking supplies to crews of the Royal Navy and Allied navies. Although they are almost unknown to landlubbers, the ships of the Gravy Navy are a well-known and welcome sight to the men of the Senior Service.

## THE SNIFFER

FOR a long time one of the greatest drawbacks of improvised airfields was the damage that waste pieces of metal could do to aeroplane tyres.

RAF engineers in Italy have now got over that problem by devising a machine they call a Sniffer. This is a magnetic sweeper, which, when hooked to a jeep and driven around an airfield, will pick up every piece of metal it passes over.

## AUSTRALIA'S KIND HEART

ONE of the many tragedies of this war is the number of children who have lost one or both parents. For British orphans, however, there will be a bright future in Australia, if they so choose. Australia hopes to welcome many British children as future citizens of the Dominion and expects that most of these young emigrants will be orphans. The Australian Government is now at work on a scheme for the immigration of children into the country. Careful arrangements will be made to care for and educate the new young Australians from the moment they land.

## WHAT THE WALKER WANTS TO KNOW

RIGHT OF WAY is the title of a new ninepenny booklet published by the Ramblers' Association of Beach House, Pensarn, Abergelle, North Wales. Admirably concise, it answers all the problems of law encountered by anyone who likes travelling the countryside on foot, whether he calls himself hiker, ramble, pedestrian, or simply walker.

All the knotty points concerning footpaths and trespass, or barbed-wire and bulls and other effective obstructions, are here dealt with, as well as wartime restrictions on rambling; and there is, in addition, a useful list of addresses for all who wish to report footpath difficulties in various parts of England and Wales.

## WELL DONE, ACK ACK

IT has just been announced that AA Command, under General Sir Frederick Pile, accounted for 533 enemy aircraft during the Battle of Britain.

General Pile has commanded the Ack-Ack since 1939, and during August and September of 1940 the Command accounted for one out of every six aircraft destroyed. In the following three months their score increased to 85 per cent, and even in 1941, when our fighters were in their prime, they still destroyed 30 per cent.

## CLEARING THE SCHELDT

THE Royal Navy, with their usual quiet determination, have been tackling the vital job of clearing the Scheldt estuary, which is the entrance to the great port of Antwerp. The Germans, anxious to delay as long as possible the landing of supplies there for the Allied armies, had left many mines in the estuary and docks—and also many cunning contrivances to prevent, as they hoped, the clearing of the mines.

The channel from the sea to Antwerp is 73 miles long and at Flushing it is approximately a mile wide, and from there to the port varies in width from 300 to 1400 yards. At Antwerp itself there are roughly 3,600,000 square yards of dock basins, all of which have to be carefully examined for booby traps of every description. However, Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, Naval Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Invasion Forces, has said: "Results will soon be seen."



## Daddy's Medal

It won't rattle, so let's try eating it—that seems to be the idea of nine-month-old Katharine Wingood about her Daddy's D.F.C.

## THE KING'S STAMPS

ARDENT stamp collectors of the Navy have formed a Royal Navy Philatelic Society. They held an exhibition recently, and the King lent them part of his extensive collection. Among the stamps His Majesty sent was the novel Pitcairn Island series. The present King's father, George V, formed one of the most famous collections in the world.

The officers and men of the new Naval society hope that a branch of stamp collectors will be set up in every big ship.

## THIS KIND WORLD

A RETIRED Army officer, living in the West-country, was too old to serve his country in the field, but he realised that he was not too old to obey the call to Dig for Victory. So he sacrificed his lovely flower garden, and, working single-handed, he now grows the vegetables his neighbours need.

Instead of putting the money he receives into his own pocket, the officer hands every penny to the Red Cross. And, when Christmas comes round, he leaves a basket of vegetables, all clean and fresh, on the doorstep of every regular customer as his contribution to the Christmas dinner!

## Unwelcome Names

PARENTS often have much to answer for by giving to their children Christian names that in later years become intolerable to their bearers.

A London lady upon whom the name of Princess was bestowed in infancy has recently taken the necessary legal steps enabling her to announce in The Gazette that henceforth her first name is to be Phyllis, not Princess. Scores of names would doubtless be changed if the legal procedure were less troublesome.

A surname, however absurd, may have to be endured, but

surely it is unkind, and should be impossible, to christen boys King, Prince, Earl, Baron, or other names suggesting that their bearers are of high rank. Yet not all men think so.

James Sanger, one of Nelson's Trafalgar heroes, had ten children, of whom John and George became famous circus proprietors. George "ennobled" himself by the addition of a name that seemed a title. Many simple folk believed that "Lord" George Sanger was a gay nobleman who had adopted the showman's life for the fun of the thing.

## JUNGLE AIR AMBULANCE

GLIDERS are being used to get our wounded men out of the jungles of the Burma front as quickly as possible. Previously it took as much as three days to transport the wounded to hospital over 100 miles of jungle tracks, many of which are now almost obliterated by the monsoon rains. Now gliders can take the wounded men from the jungle to hospital in one hour, and in good weather the American pilots make their errand of mercy twice a day.

## THE LITTLE MOTHERS

MANY are the girls who have lost their mothers, or whose mothers are ill, so that the responsibilities of housework and looking after their younger brothers and sisters fall upon their young shoulders. It is a hard life, with no medals, little companionship and few thanks.

These heroines deserve all the help and encouragement we can give them. They have to assume burdens before their time, and unless there is some compensation for their self-sacrificing devotion they run the risk of losing their precious heritage of youth. For such girls, happily, the National Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs desires to make special provision. Mrs Anthony Eden, the wife of our splendid Foreign Secretary, is appealing for gifts to a £100,000 fund to provide clubs where girls and boys can meet in their spare moments and feel that they are still young. This is a truly deserving cause. The address of the Association is Hamilton House, Bidborough Street, London, WC1.

## AN AEROPLANE BOOK

The Children's How and Why Aeroplane Book, Edited by Morley Adams (Faber & Faber, 3s 6d).

THE success of the A.T.C. is witness to the popularity of the aeroplane with young people. In simple language and with numerous diagrams this book explains many things about the aeroplane itself and the work it does. They are the things we should know, and while many senior A.T.C. cadets will probably feel that already they "know it all," their younger brothers and sisters will be able to learn much from the pages of this instructive book.

## JUST IN TIME

A FISHERMAN of St Andrew's was out fishing with his daughter in a raging easterly wind, with heavy squalls and a choppy sea, when he saw a small sailing-boat capsize. Going immediately to the rescue, they found seven people in the water, and as the daughter drew each one forward with the boathook the father pulled them safely aboard. They have since been rewarded by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

## OIL DIRECT TO CHINA

"THE artery through which we will pump a transfusion into the sick body of China"—thus did the Commander of the U.S. Forces in India and Burma describe the new 1800-mile oil pipeline now being laid between India and China.

From its starting-point in Calcutta the line goes through jungle and across river and gorge—along the valley of the Brahmaputra, through Assam and Burma, and will eventually reach the Yunnan Province. Its completion will be an engineering triumph of incalculable value to all the motorised units and air squadrons operating against the Japanese.

## WAXED EGGS

"How long can an egg be kept fresh?" That is a question to which the South African Department of Dehydration and Cold Storage is giving a new answer.

The Department has worked out a new method of waxing eggs which will preserve them in cold storage for twice as long as usual. The eggs have no taste of grease about them when they are eaten, and the cost of the waxing process is only a shilling for every case of 30 dozen eggs.

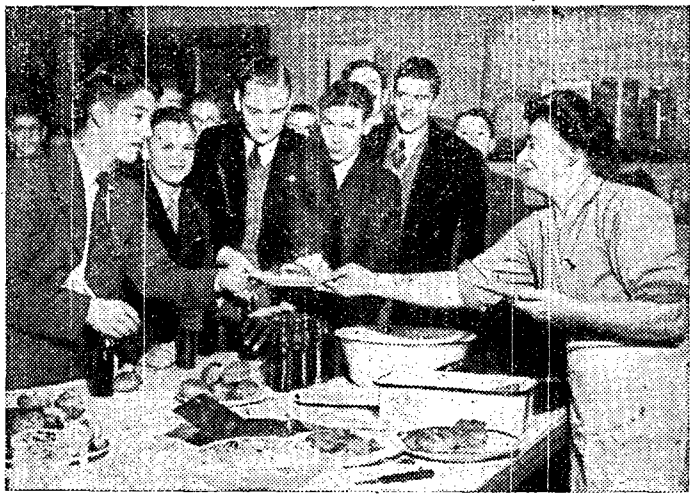
The Cold Storage Department's discovery will help South Africa in its contribution to Allied food supplies. Eggs form but a small part of the Dominion's food exports, yet in one year alone the Union has sent 1,900,000 dozen eggs to feed the fighting forces.



## Training For Relief Work

Feeding, clothing, and doctoring homeless people in Europe after the war will be a big job; and those who help will often have to travel with their equipment over trackless territory. That is what these women of the Guides International Service are practising in a picturesque part of Britain.





## How's Your Appetite Today?

The question seems unnecessary, judging from the expression of these lads who belong to a luncheon club run by the London Federation of Boys' Clubs.

## BACK TO ANTWERP

THE opening of Antwerp to the traffic of the Allies marks the third occasion on which the fortunes of the great Belgian port have been linked with those of our own land.

Thirty years ago, following the British retreat from Mons, Mr Churchill went to Antwerp to promise that we would send armed help for the defence of the city. So in October 1914 we sent to Antwerp 2200 Royal Marines and 6000 men of the Naval Division to enable the Belgian Army to hold the port against 120,000 Germans.

The city did fall, but the bulk of the Belgian army escaped to fight until the end of the war; and the delay caused by their forces and ours was sufficient to prevent the Germans from an immediate advance on Ypres and the capture of the Channel ports, which, at that critical stage of the war, might have caused our utter defeat.

But our support of Belgium dates back to thrilling days when the modern kingdom was part of the Netherlands. In 1585 the

Duke of Parma, tyrannous representative of the then all-conquering Spain, ruling the Netherlands with merciless might, captured Antwerp and ordered the expulsion of all Protestants from the city. Of the 30,000 people who fled, a great number came to England, which, then as ever, they regarded as the stronghold of freedom. They brought with them their trades and inventions to our abiding profit.

Parma the tyrant remained, with 20,000 of the finest veteran troops in the world, and it was this force that, three years later, the Spanish Armada was to embark at a port agreed upon. Thanks to Drake and his fellow heroes the appointment was never kept, for the shattered Armada went fleeing to the north with never a hope of reaching the harbour where Parma and his legions lay waiting.

Our victory over the Armada was the foundation on which the liberty of the Netherlands was ultimately based, for the power of oppressive Spain fell for ever in that memorable battle.

## In Memory of Q

DEAD MAN'S ROCK and Troy Town are books which are loved by children of all ages. Their author, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, died this year, since when a desire has been widely expressed to raise a permanent memorial to this great man in Fowey. This desire has now become actual fact through a generous gift by Major P. F. Shakerley of a site known as Hall Walk and the cliffs below to Fowey and Lanteglos, to serve as a memorial to Q and the men of both places who fall in this war. It is intended that this beautiful spot on the

Cornish coast shall be vested in the National Trust, for the public to enjoy for ever.

Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch was not merely an author of popular books. He was a master of English, an expert in literary criticism, and Professor of English Literature at Cambridge University.

Lovers of Cornwall have a deep affection for Fowey, the quiet beauty of which lingers always in their minds. There could be no better way of keeping alive the memory of Q than by preserving a spot which he knew and loved so well.

## JUNIOR RED CROSS IN EIRE

THE Junior Red Cross, which is an international movement, is spreading widely in Eire. Although established only a year ago 10,000 Irish boys and girls have joined. These young people are learning the rules of health and how to help others, and in Dublin the members visit sick children in the city hospitals and make toys for them.

As one of the objects of the organisation is international

friendship Irish members are already corresponding with schools in America. This was prompted by the generous consignment of 4000 gift boxes to Dublin by the American Junior Red Cross. But by mutual agreement these boxes will in future go to Europe. The Irish Red Cross hope to establish correspondence between its members and those of the British and other groups.

## Explorer of the Universe

WITH the passing of Sir Arthur Eddington, O.M., scientists have lost a brilliant leader and all of us a teacher who could explain the most difficult subjects in simple words.

Sir Arthur was Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge and worked at its famous Observatory. A physicist and mathematician of the highest order, he was the first British scientist to realise the revolutionary importance of Professor Einstein's Theory of Relativity, which challenged previous ideas about space and time. From his observations during an eclipse of the Sun in 1919 Sir Arthur established the truth of Einstein's prediction that the light of the stars would be found to bend when passing close to that body.

Of the nature of the stars themselves, their temperatures and their composition, this original investigator added very much to our knowledge; and from his study of the remote spiral nebulae sprang his idea of an expanding universe. This he explained in one of his most popular books.

A member of the Society of Friends, Sir Arthur Eddington never forgot humanity. He was one of the 18 famous men who in 1939 appealed to all, especially the leaders and people of Germany, for a "supreme effort to lay the spectre of war."

## SCHOOLBOY COUNCIL

WHEN the boys of Winchester City go out into the world they will understand the art of local government—which is more than many grown-ups do at present—for these boys have been practising for their future duties as burgesses.

A little while ago the lads held an election among themselves and chose boys as councillors and aldermen. These in their turn were allowed by the local authority to meet in the city council chamber itself, where they went through all the procedure for electing a mayor.

The boys' election of councillors and aldermen was organised in exactly the same way as a real municipal election. Senior boys acted as policemen and presiding officers at the polling place. So that it should be as realistic as possible, some boys tried to vote twice for the same candidate but were found out when the presiding officers referred to an electoral register they had made.

## China's New Ministers

AN indication of China's heroic determination, after many years of war, to carry on more relentlessly than ever the struggle against Japan is the appointment of a new War Minister, General Chen-Cheng. The General is everywhere regarded as one of China's most energetic leaders, with a great enthusiasm for all the most modern methods of warfare. There is also a new Finance Minister, Mr O. K. Yui, formerly mayor of Shanghai. Among the other new ministers is Dr Wang Shih-Chieh, Minister of Information, who won golden opinions when he came here recently as leader of a Chinese goodwill mission.

## THE EDITOR'S TABLE

### THE SAVING GRACE

SINCE the War Savings campaign began in November 1939 over £8300,000,000 in savings have poured into the Government's coffers. Of this colossal sum, £3200,000,000 represent savings through savings certificates and defence bonds or by way of deposits in the Post Office or trustee savings banks. Well over twenty million people—or nearly a half the total population of England and Wales—now hold Government securities in one way or another; 300,000 savings groups have been established in our country.

These widespread loans to our Government have enabled them to provide the sinews of War. We would emphasise that when the war ends the Savings Movement will have to continue, to enable the Government to provide the sinews of Peace.

### Galloping Commentary

IN an estimate of the speeds at which various languages are spoken it is revealed that French leads the way with 350 syllables a minute. Japanese, with 310 syllables a minute, is the next quickest, and then comes German with 250. Some of the Polynesians are apparently the slowest of all speakers, conversing at a leisurely 50 syllables a minute and, by comparison, making even the Englishman, with his 220, a real gabbler.

Of course, this slow-speaking Englishman is only an average—we know several who literally swamp their listeners with an unceasing torrent of words; and the next time one of them comes to tea we shall undoubtedly wish he were a Polynesian.

### JUST AN IDEA

As Smollett wrote, An ounce of prudence is worth a pound of gold.

## CARRY ON

### DECEMBER

THE trees are barren where the robin sings  
And night is hard upon the heels of day.  
A wind the chilling breath of winter brings  
To field and hedgerow, once with colour gay.

December treads her course of crumbled leaves  
And scarce a nosegay doth her progress greet,  
Except what fancy in her dreaming weaves  
In face of mists or driving snow or sleet.

And yet she is among the months a queen,  
For Christmastide falls in December's span.  
In the night sky the Star of Hope is seen  
And new life springs within the heart of man. W. S. Leeming

## ENGLAND AND

THE grand pageantry of Shakespeare's Henry the Fifth has been brought to the screen in Technicolor by British producers and British actors.

This film, about the hero king whose calls to battle before Harfleur and Agincourt rank among the most stirring speeches in our literature, opened the other day at the Carlton Theatre, London, with Laurence Olivier as King Henry. Mr Olivier also directed the film.

The riot of colour in this moving picture is breath-taking; yet the colourful spectacle does not detract from the beauty of the play and of Shakespeare's stirring lines.

It has been a moot point

## A Japanese

PROPAGANDA is one of the most devastating weapons of modern war—in the right hands. Unskillfully used it defeats its own purpose and becomes merely laughable, as witness this sample from a Japanese leaflet dropped for our troops in Burma.

Home sweet home . . . London Bridge. Boats float there and there and British streets dimly lit yet invitingly seen. All family

## Under the E

It has been the fashion to cast verbal bricks at Civil Servants. They have built up a fine reputation.

POLICEMEN do not mind jokes on their feet. They prefer boots.

A NORTH-COUNTRY accent is not funny in itself. Someone has to speak with it.

SOME farmers think it unlucky to have a hair cut when the moon is waning. Afraid they will not get a good crop.

PETER WANTS TO KNOW



If lawyers wear

## The Joy

THE time draws near the birth of Christ, and there is in our grasp the secret of the happiness of the world, for most of us are thinking of others.

It is the time of Giving, the time when unselfishness runs free and the thought of others fills all kindly hearts.

Giving—what a wonderful thing it is! There is no money

## THE PLEASURE

SO SOLITUDE! if I must with thee dwell,  
Let it not be among the jumbled heap  
Of murky buildings; climb with me the steep—  
Nature's observatory—whence the dell,

Its flowery slopes, its river's crystal swell,  
May seem a span; let me thy vigils keep  
'Mongst boughs pavilioned, where the deer's swift leap



## ST GEORGE

Whether Shakespeare is really suitable for the screen. Certainly A. Midsummer Night's Dream, made in Hollywood some years ago, was a good argument for those who are against filming Shakespeare. But in Henry V the critics have been confounded.

There is a further point about it, is grand film which is worth noting. It has come at the right moment when, with victory in sight, some of us are, perhaps, a little tired and our enthusiasm for our country needs refreshing.

Laurence Olivier's Henry the Fifth strikes just the right note at the right time, and we owe a debt to him and all concerned for their splendid work in the cause of England and St George.

## se Leaflet

*except one sitting by fireside softly singing. There is no place like Home. Who is singing? Could it be the wife?*

Surely the Japanese can do better than this artless effort, the only possible result of which must be All regiment sitting in jungle softly laughing. Perhaps Dr Goebbels could be persuaded to lend them a hand—he obviously needs a change of air.

## ditor's Table

**PUCK TO** A LADY says that moths have eaten holes in her clothes. Can't have found them very nourishing.

**ICE** cream is coming back. Children will freeze on to it.

**UNCIVILISED** people can teach our scientists something. Perhaps that it is better to be civilised.

**WATERLOO BRIDGE** is so wide it gives you a lost feeling. But you soon get over it.

## of Giving

in the world that buys so much as giving, for it buys the purest joys that Life can hold. To live to get is a sordid business, a throwing away of life for its most petty things; but to live to give is to build a Paradise about us, feeling with every breath we breathe how good life is.

Arthur Mee

## ES OF A POET

Startles the wild bee from the fox-glove bell.  
But though I'll gladly trace these scenes with thee,  
Yet the sweet converse of an innocent mind,  
Whose words are images of thoughts refined,  
Is my soul's pleasure; and it sure must be  
Almost the highest bliss of human-kind,  
When to thy haunts two kindred spirits flee.

Keats

## TOPICAL

THE British Bureau of Information has opened a photographic exhibition at Istanbul to encourage Turkey's interest in this country.

This country's interest in Turkey, at this season, is already sufficiently widespread.

## To Help Our Future Farmers

IT has been agreed that, after the war, there must be a network of training institutes all over the country to provide theoretical and practical instruction in the all-important business of farming.

As a contribution towards this worthy purpose, a Lincolnshire parson, the Revd Austin Lee, has offered his rectory for use as a home or training centre for demobilised soldiers who want to take up farming as a career.

Modern farming is a science, an art, and a business, all in one. Success will not come by intuition or even by what may be learned by being brought up or living on farms. The training of young men and women to be farmers is a matter of considerable urgency; yet the early building of new farming institutes is not likely in view of the crying need for millions of homes. We hope the generous offer of the Lincolnshire rector will be followed by similar offers.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

THE Scottish Council of the Electrical Association for Women has suggested that boys and girls from the age of eleven onwards should be taught simple electricity. For example, they should be told how to replace a blown fuse, read a meter, calculate running costs and know how electric bells function.

An excellent idea! How often we have sighed for a bright youth who could lighten the darkness into which we have suddenly been plunged.

## CLOTHING FOR THE SOUL

Joy and woe are woven fine,  
A clothing for the soul divine;  
Under every grief and pine  
Runs a joy with silken twine.  
It is right it should be so;  
Man was made for joy and woe;  
And when this we rightly know  
Safely through the world we go.

William Blake

## A German's Protest

CANNON and firearms are cruel and damnable machines, I believe them to have been the direct suggestion of the devil. Against the flying ball no valour avails; the soldier is dead ere he sees the means of destruction. If Adam had seen in a vision the horrible instruments his children were to invent, he would have died of grief.

Martin Luther

## RECOMPENSE

THE poor, oppressed, honest man  
Has never sure been born,  
Had there not been some recompense  
To comfort those that mourn!

Burns

## Revealing an Ancient Heritage

MANY of our ancient stained-glass windows have been stored away in safety during the blitz. Now that the greater part of the country is freed from this peril, pious hands will doubtless soon be at work on the replacement of this precious heritage. An excellent suggestion has been made that famous windows which have hitherto been beyond the reach of cameras should be photographed before they are set up again, and, reproduced in colour, form the subject of lantern slides for public exhibition.

Medieval stained glass in all its original splendour is comparatively rare in England; but at Canterbury, Salisbury, Lincoln, and York we have fine examples of the earliest of such glass still surviving, and for later, but still ancient, glass, we point with pride to the possessions of Ely and Wells Cathedral, to New College, Oxford, to Great Malvern Abbey, to St Mary's Church, Shrewsbury, and to the famous old church at Fairford, in Gloucestershire.

## Jewels From a Furnace

What a task these ancient windows were! The glass came molten from the furnace, in separate colours, like so many jewels, and these, in minute pieces, had to be joined together, like the multitude of sections forming a jigsaw puzzle, with thin strips of lead to link them.

The work of these fine craftsmen profoundly influenced national thought and feeling. Few people could read in those days, so the windows, reinforced by wall-paintings, served as the permanent illustrated Bible, telling the Sacred Story in form and colour. To these subjects were added the legends of the saints, their triumph and martyrdom, each saint identified by his or her special emblem, such as a lamb for St Agnes.

In later generations the coats of arms, the crests and mottoes of the local nobles and landed proprietors, were set in the windows. Sometimes, too, actual portraits of benefactors of the churches, or of the donors of the windows, appeared in the painted scheme, with many a record of bygone costume and custom, many a sly touch of not irreverent humour.

A volume in colour of these priceless treasures from our storied past would be a joyous possession for any lover of our beautiful country. Meanwhile, we hope that the suggestion for the photographing of the windows, now so accessible to the camera, will be widely adopted.

## New Goods For New Homes

IN a recent statement on the switch-over from war to peace production, the Board of Trade has revealed that over two thousand firms, mostly concerned with household supplies, have applied for the use of Government war factories when the European war ends.

The claims of these firms are being investigated by experts, and those selected will be offered the lease of factories as they become available. Priority household manufactures will be bedding, cutlery, curtains, furniture, glassware, and clothes.

## How SWEET THE BEET!

WHEN children receive their extra sweet ration for the holiday season they will owe thanks in two directions. For the chocolate they are indebted to the Merchant Navy; for the sugar to the British farmer.

Our sugar nowadays comes chiefly from the sugar-beet, and, like the Continental nations, we have at last succeeded in growing this crop in vast quantities. So plentiful were our supplies from overseas that we did not bother to cultivate the sugar-yielding beet in our own land. While Europe in general, and Germany in particular, was yearly producing millions of tons of beet sugar, we scorned it.

In 1910 an attempt to grow beet for sugar was made at Kidderminster, but, there being no demand for the product, the enterprise failed and its factory closed. An equally profitless effort was made in Cornwall. The Great War, however, which so gravely imperilled our sea routes, taught us a lesson.

In 1918 beet-growing for sugar was begun in earnest in this country, and the industry has grown, and now yields us sugar for every purpose, domestic and commercial.

How important, the industry has become to Britain we can judge from the fact that in the past season more than 50,000 farmers were growing sugar-beet, 420,000 acres being under cultivation. In addition, the beet has yielded in by-products—leaves and pulp and so on—some four

million tons in the last two seasons, a crop invaluable in the maintenance of our livestock.

War drove Napoleon to anticipate us by over a century. Determined to cripple the British Empire by shutting out her commerce from Europe, he forbade the importation of sugar, which France had been wont to get from our Colonies. To make good this loss he promoted the cultivation of sugar-beet in France; and in Waterloo year France had 85,000 acres of land so employed.

Needless to say, his efforts, which in this matter were entirely wise and scientific, aroused disgust and contempt among our ancestors. In order to belittle and ridicule Napoleon, then our Enemy Number One, they poured scorn on what they deemed the lunacy of seeking to extract sugar for the teacup from the beetroot of the field. One of the cartoons of the period showed Napoleon, with his little son, the youthful King of Rome, busy with a beetroot, and the wording accompanying the drawing said "Suck, dear, suck! Your father says it's sugar!"

But Napoleon was right, and the sugar from multitudes of beets has gone into the sweets that will rejoice young hearts on Christmas morn.

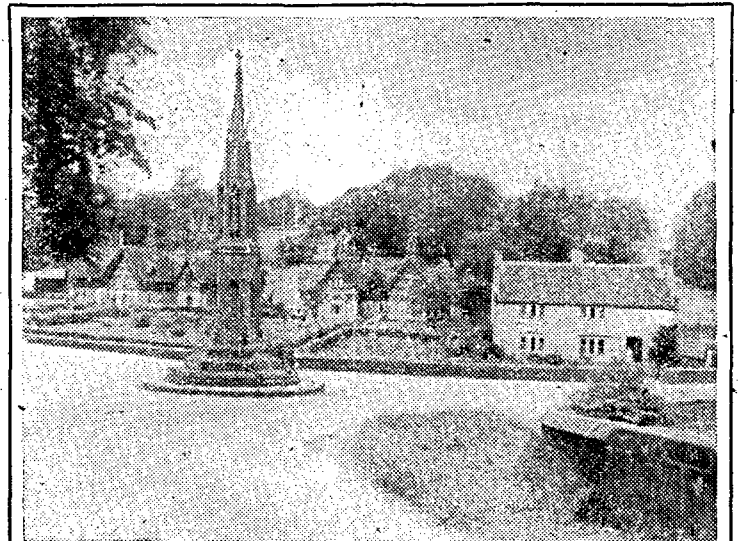
## Wocci at Work

Wocci is a word made of initials, its full name being War Office Central Card Index, and Wocci itself is a marvellous machine invented to assist in the colossal job of demobilisation.

In order to get back smoothly into civilian life the millions of Service men and women our authorities must have a complete record of every man and woman, his or her age, health grade, former occupation in civil life, and many other details. Wocci records all this on a small card 7½ inches by 3 inches for each man or woman. First of all, a human clerk punches 70 or 80 holes in the card; these holes take the place of words, and figures, and each one indicates some fact about the person to whom the card relates. Then Wocci's intricate machinery sorts out the millions of these cards into the correct groups.

For example, at a recent demonstration Wocci produced in six minutes the names and records of all the fishmongers in the R.A.M.C., R.E.M.E., and the Pioneer Corps. That is the kind of information the officials directing demobilisation must have in order to shape their policy. Now, instead of their having to wait for weeks while dozens of clerks laboriously work out the details and figures required, they can get the correct answer from Wocci in a few minutes. Not only that, but human clerks make mistakes—and Wocci never errs. The machine is at present worked by a staff of 350 girls, mostly A.T.S.

With this accurate machine to help in the work, the vast switch-over of millions from military to civil life at the end of the war should take place with the minimum of hardship.



THIS ENGLAND

The modern cross in the North Staffordshire village of Ilam



## MEMORIES OF OLD RAVENNA

IN their advance across the marshes to the historic city of Ravenna the Eighth Army has reached the magnificent church of Sant' Apollinare in Classe. They found booby traps in its campanile and the church itself severely damaged by German shells.

This great church was built early in the sixth century three miles outside the city, but close to its ancient port of Classis.

It is hard for the peacetime visitor to realise on getting out of the railway station in this tranquil country town and viewing the small canal harbour opposite that this was Classis, from the time of Augustus Caesar the Roman Portsmouth on the Adriatic.

Ravenna itself is nowadays six miles from the sea. In the nave of its church of Sant' Apollinare Nuova is a fine sixth century mosaic picture of Classis, with its Roman buildings, the harbour, and two lighthouses.

The Emperor Honorius took refuge in Ravenna, with his court and government, four years before the barbarian Alaric sacked Rome in A.D. 410. What is probably his tomb is in the mausoleum named after his more famous sister Gallia Placidia.

The fifth century mosaics of this chapel of Gallia Placidia are among the finest of those for which Ravenna is deservedly famous, and the little building is itself of high interest as the only one of her foundation which has come down to us substantially as she left it.

Fourteen hundred years ago the great Christian soldier Belisarius blotted out the German barbarians on the Mediterranean and in North Africa. Trusted by the Emperor Justinian and inspired by the Empress Theodora, he afterwards invaded Italy and recaptured Rome.

Later Belisarius swept the German horde back to the north, through the Apennines and by the Adriatic, and in A.D. 540 captured Ravenna, where, faithful to his master the Emperor at Constantinople, he refused an offer of the crown.

Close to the mausoleum of Gallia Placidia is a plain brick structure in the Byzantine style. It is the church of San Vitale, which was consecrated by Archbishop Maximian in A.D. 574, while Belisarius was yet striving mightily against the barbarians in the neighbourhood.

The choir apse is adorned with mosaic pictures of the period, admirably coloured. Above are Christ enthroned, St. Vitalis, and St. Ecclesius with a picture of the actual church as it stands today. In the groups below are the Emperor Justinian and the Empress Theodora.

Emperors, saints, and archbishops have their place, but poets, too, have had some share in the story of Ravenna, especially the poet Dante, whose tomb is near the old church of St. Francis. Who can forget the lines of Byron, who made the town his home for many years?

*I pass each day where Dante's bones are laid;*

*A little cupola, more neat than solemn,*

*Protects his dust, but reverence here is paid*

*To the bard's tomb, and not the warrior's column.*

Ravenna, shining through its mists, is a marvellous shrine, ever ready to welcome Crusaders.

## The Spacious Days of Yore

WITH taxis few, buses irregular, and trains crowded even to the corridors, people often sigh for the spacious days of yore, with their leisure and liberty for travellers. There was never overcrowding in the coaching days, they say; coaches could not and did not carry more than the appointed number.

Dickens' descriptions of crowded coaches bogged and overturned on dark and miry roads should be the answer to one part of that legend; and a letter from a boy who became Prime Minister contains a further revelation. It was young Palmerston, describing his journey from Harrow to his Hampshire home for the holidays. At one stage there were no horses for them. "All the horses were out with the lawyers, for the Quarter Sessions were then on!"

Palmerston knew also the meaning of overcrowding. His companion was one of the Harrow house-masters, of whom he says: "Mr Stanly is very agreeable in a house, but he is very disagreeable in a post-chaise—he sits ten foot broad." Yet young Pam was no grouser, being described at Harrow as not only the pluckiest but the best-tempered boy in the school.

In truth, the good old days are but a legend, with never an existence save in the warm, mellowing glow of memory.

## The Care of Teeth

AMONG Army and A.T.S. recruits, 90 per cent of the men and 86 per cent of the women needed dental treatment. These figures are given in a recent White Paper, the Report of Lord Teviot's Committee on Dentistry, which expresses alarm at Britain's widespread dental disease.

Here are some other illuminating figures quoted in the report:

Between thirteen and fourteen million persons in this country are entitled to dental benefit under the National Health Insurance scheme. Yet only 300,000 (less than seven per cent) claim that benefit on an average each year.

A sample survey of five-year-old children in Cambridge revealed that only a little over nine per cent of those examined had naturally sound teeth.

The committee recommend the setting up of a comprehensive dental service to form a part of the Government's national health service. As a serious shortage of dentists will delay the completion of this scheme for some years the committee urge that every possible step should be taken to encourage suitable ex-Service men to enter dentistry, and that dental teachers should be released from the armed forces at the earliest possible moment. There is no doubt that, if we are to be a healthy nation, both in body and in mind, dental inspection and treatment of all persons, starting in the early years of life, is essential.

One day, perhaps, we shall become dental minded, tooth-conscious, as the Americans are already. When that happens the dentists' work will be heavier, but the doctors' clients will be fewer.

## THE LENGTH OF THE DAY ON VENUS

THE planet Venus is now a splendid object in the south-west sky after sunset, writes the C.N. Astronomer. The silvery radiance of this, the Evening Star, prevents it from being mistaken for any other star.

Now that Venus does not set until nearly two hours after the Sun we have a good opportunity for obtaining a peep at this planetary "sister" of the Earth; for our world is only about 300 miles more in diameter than Venus, which is some 7600 miles, so, were the Earth where Venus is now, she would appear very similar.

The best time to look for Venus is after 5 o'clock and until about 6.30, the earlier the better as banks of cloud or mist are apt to be present near the horizon. Venus is now coming after the Earth from far beyond the Sun and, though about 103

cloud markings so indistinct as to provide no certain evidence of the rate of rotation.

At one time this rate was thought to be about 24 hours and similar to that of the Earth and Mars. Tests by spectroscopic analysis of the reflected sunlight showed no evidence of approach or recession from either the east or west edges, or limbs as astronomers say, of the planet's disc, which should be the case if Venus rotated thus, and like Mars.

A most remarkable discovery, however, was made through the radiometric measurements of Coblentz and Lampland. These scientists measured the amount of heat radiated from the upper cusp and the lower cusp of Venus. Assuming these cusps to represent approximately the North and South Poles of Venus, as in the Moon, Earth, and Mars, we should have expected them to be equally cold. But instead, it was found that more heat was being radiated from the southern cusp than from the northern one. The obvious explanation was that the cusps were not near the Poles, the inference being that Venus rotates on an axis at an angle pointed largely toward the Earth. This should account for the failure to perceive evidence of rotation by either observation or spectroscopic methods.

Subsequent close observation based on the considerable tilt of her axis has indicated that Venus rotates in something between 60 hours and 24 days; instead of the 225 days, or once in a Venusian year, as would be the case if Venus always turned the same face to the Sun. It has also been found that heat is radiated from the dark side of Venus, which would not be the case if that side was forever hidden from the Sun, and therefore frigid.

On the evening of December 18, the slender crescent of the Moon may be seen appearing near Venus, thus presenting a charming spectacle against the twilight sky.

G. F. M.



million miles away at present, she is travelling so rapidly that she is reducing this by about 800,000 miles a day, on an average. So in a month Venus will be 20 million miles nearer to us and a glorious object, still brighter and much higher in the western sky.

Her change in appearance and apparent size as seen through a telescope at different dates is shown in the picture, the changing apparent form of Venus being due to the difference in the proportion of her sunlit hemisphere that is presented toward us, for she changes in position as she travels toward us in the curved path of her orbit.

It can thus be seen that Venus has a night half and a day half, as the Earth has, but the length of the day and night depends upon the rate at which Venus turns on her axis. This is one of the chief problems that awaits solution for, though Venus comes much nearer to the Earth than Mars, when this happens only a small portion of her surface, less than 30 per cent, is seen sunlit. Also, the intense brilliance renders any

## A University For Youth Leaders

IN opening Community House in Glasgow the Iona Youth Trust has launched a University for Youth Leaders, its purpose being to find the right form of Christian action for older youth in Glasgow and West Scotland.

Thousands of young people are actively associated with youth organisations, and Community House is intended to be a centre where the leaders can gather with their senior members to

bring "focus to the meaning of Christian fellowship and the nature of the Christian faith."

Community House will have a chapel, library, restaurant, meeting-rooms, and, later, a miniature theatre and week-end accommodation for about 100 youth leaders. It is pointed out that it will not usurp in any way the training in leadership that belongs particularly to the various youth organisations.

## PRINCESS ELIZABETH'S DUTIES

WHEN the Duke of Gloucester leaves this month to be Governor-General of Australia, the only senior member of the Royal family left to deputise for the King and Queen will be Princess Elizabeth. It is possible she may be called on to appear in public for the King on quite important occasions, for she has already carried out successfully many official tasks.

The Princess has been making a close study of political matters, and she may soon pay her first visit to the House of Commons when it is in session. A thorough knowledge of our methods of government will be essential to her when she comes to the throne. Of course, the Sovereign does not take sides in politics, in Britain but always understands every aspect of the subject.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### Only Teasing

JERRY sat staring into the fire.

It was a very serious matter that he had to decide. Should he tell, or should he not?

You see, it was like this. Jerry's cousin Jack was bigger



than Jerry, and he took a great delight in teasing him.

When they found the kitten wandering along the garden path, Jack threw a stone near her, and laughed when Jerry cried: "Oh, Jack! How could you be so cruel?"

And when Jerry had stooped down and petted the little creature, Jack snatched her away and put her into the water-butt.

Jerry expected to hear a splash, but the water-butt was empty, and Pussy went straight to the bottom.

Whether she were hurt or not Jerry couldn't tell.

"Take her out, you cruel boy," he cried, "or I shall tell uncle!"

"Tell him!" dared Jack. "Be a tell-tale, if you want to!" And with that, off he went.

For ever so long Jerry stood looking down at Pussy, but though he put his hand down as far as he could reach, he couldn't get her. And how could he fetch help without telling tales?

There were ways, but Jerry was a very little boy, and he didn't think of any.

Not for a long time, that is, but suddenly, as he sat by the fire and thought and thought, an idea came to him.

"What a goose I am!" he cried. "I'll tip up the tub, and Pussy can jump out herself."

He ran out into the garden, but on turning the corner to get to the spot where the tub stood he bumped into Jack—with Pussy in his arms.

"Here's your cat," he said. "I was only teasing. She isn't hurt a bit."



## TO ENSURE WORLD PEACE

So important for us all do the Government consider the study of the world-peace proposals drawn up at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference that they have issued a new White Paper on the subject.

With the title A Commentary, and costing only twopence, this pamphlet sets out and explains in detail the scheme for establishing an international organisation, to be called The United Nations. This organisation will not only maintain peace and security but also achieve international co-operation in economic, social, and other problems.

It is intended that the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, with, perhaps, some later modifications, shall be embodied in the form of a treaty to be known as The Charter of the United Nations. The White Paper points out that this title "both shows that it is the result of the common effort which has saved civilisation from the Nazi and Fascist attacks, and expresses the belief that such a close union will continue in the future." Here is substantial hope, indeed.

In many respects this proposed Charter resembles the Covenant of the League of Nations, but on one point at least it is fundamentally different. Whereas, under the League of Nations Covenant, there could be no intervention with force to repress violence until war had actually broken out, the new Charter would not only try to abolish the use of all violence between all States but would make it possible to intervene even when violence was merely threatened.

There is to be a Security Council, with a Military Staff Committee composed of Chiefs of Staff of those States with permanent seats on the Council. This Committee will be responsible to the Council for the strategic direction of armed forces placed at the disposal of the Council and for all advice on military matters. Provision will be made for quotas of national armed forces to be available for immediate action on the order of the Security Council. On this Council five States—Great Britain, the United States, Russia, China, and France—will have permanent seats; and there will be, in addition, six non-permanent seats.

In the economic and social

sphere responsibility will be entrusted to a General Assembly representing a wider circle of States than those who will have won the war for Freedom and who will safeguard world security afterwards.

The White Paper stresses, as a main principle in the Charter, that all States shall have equal rights to the maintenance of their political independence. This is the "Sovereign Equality" of the Moscow Declaration.

The greatest threat, the White Paper adds, comes from war, and the machinery of the League of Nations for the prevention of war was incomplete. The proposed Charter remedies this, for the most important authority under it will be the Security Council with its Military Staff Committee.

This is as it should be, because the most carefully devised organisation will be futile unless collective armed forces are readily available to stop the danger of war if and when it arises.

The Charter, when it is completed, signed, and sealed, should prove to be the most important legal document of all time.

## An Orange For Christmas

How pleased we have all been with the news that every one in the land is to have four pounds of oranges between now and next spring. A rare treat for us all today, the orange was among the many things we took for granted before the war; and it is easy to forget that not so very long ago it was an undoubted luxury.

In the years which followed the last war we imported sweet oranges from South Africa and South America as well as from the Mediterranean countries, and we had them all the year round. Before 1914 few oranges were seen in this country except during the winter months, and many people remember that they used to put a lump of sugar into their rare oranges, so sour were they.

Charles Chaplin once told a story of his own boyhood which shows how precious a single orange was to the poor children of forty or fifty years ago. He knew that he would get one orange at a Christmas treat, and he planned exactly how he would eat it. The peel was to last him several days, the fruit itself would be eaten section by section, and altogether it would last a fortnight.

Unfortunately, Charles was taken ill, and missed his treat. But his story ended with a characteristic remembrance as tribute to the poor boys who were his friends in those days. Two of them each gave him one of the sweets they had received at the treat. They lasted the penniless Charles Chaplin a fortnight!

We do well to remember that even in wartime children are more fortunate in some ways than the children of half a century ago.

## Metz in a Former War

THE capture of Metz after stiff fighting by the Americans was very different from its tame surrender to the Germans 74 years ago. By his action, or lack of action then, Francois Achille Bazaine, Marshal of France, involved his country in what was until then perhaps the most disastrous defeat in her history.

In all its long career as a fortress, the grim and ugly town, though often attacked and besieged, had never been taken. But on October 27, 1870, Bazaine capitulated with three brother-marshals, 6000 officers, and 173,000 men. And the tragedy was that he should never have let himself be cooped up in the place at all.

But his information was faulty, his dispositions bad, his plans feeble. Bazaine had gained a notable reputation over a long period, in Algeria, Spain, the Crimea, in Italy and Mexico and in France itself. Nobody has ever been able to explain his action.

He tried to explain it himself in two books published when he was an old man, over seventy. But that was ten years after he had been tried by court-martial for failure in his duty, condemned to degradation and death. His sentence was commuted to 20 years' imprisonment, but he escaped after a year and made his way to Madrid, where he spent most of his remaining existence trying to justify himself.

## WARRIORS OF THE JUNGLE

WHY do Africans make good jungle fighters? This letter from Private Owboyubola Mathew, of the Royal West-African Frontier Force, now fighting in Burma, gives one of the reasons.

"When I was a little boy in my village home I used to wonder why some people were born black and others white. I was puzzled, until my headmaster explained to me that these things were the result of adaptation to differences of environment and climate. He added the encouraging remark, 'Everything as well as everybody is useful in its appointed time and place.'

"Down in the jungles of Burma one of our most useful assets is our wonderful protective colouring; instead of being forced to spend time camouflaging ourselves we can spend this time in looking for the enemy.

"A captured Japanese officer on one occasion described the West Africans as the terrible devils of the jungle, and being asked the reason replied that it was because they could not be seen, even with binoculars, by day or night."

But Private Mathew has told only half the story. The West Africans are feared by the Japanese because they use their cleverness at camouflage to spring the most unpleasant surprises on the enemy. The West Africans were among those specially asked for by the late Major-General Wingate to take part, as Chindit troops, in airborne operations far behind the enemy lines. No greater compliment could have been paid to their skill and daring as jungle fighters.

## IN A COFFEE HOUSE

ON an autumn morning 150 years ago a group of men met in a coffee house in the City of London. It was at that meeting that was born the idea which in a few months led to the founding of one of our most famous missionary societies.

The coffee house was in Change Alley, but has long since been demolished. The men were all ministers of churches in the City of London, except one who had come up from Gosport as a visitor. None of them was famous, but their names are worth recording because what they did that morning led eventually to David Livingstone going to Africa, John Williams to the South Seas, James Chalmers to New Guinea, and Robert Morrison to China. It was at that meeting that John Eyre, Joseph Brooks-bank, John Townsend, John Love, James Steven, David Bogue, John Reynolds, and Mathew Wilks talked about starting a missionary society, which in 1795 became the London Missionary Society.

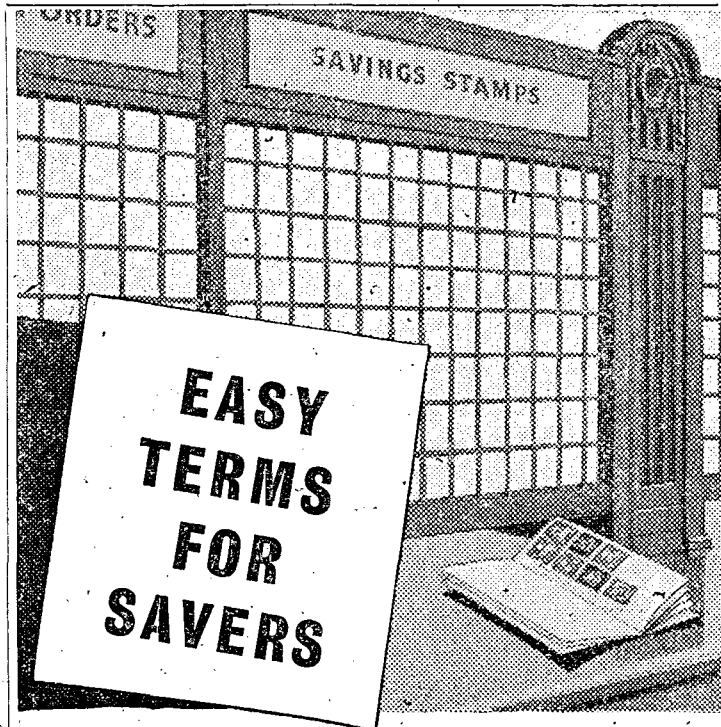
Having got this group, John Eyre kept them together. That morning the eight men searched the Scriptures and prayed long prayers. They and a growing

company of friends continued to do so with much eloquence and magnificent patience until the memorable Founders' Week of September 1795 when the Missionary Society was launched.

The first meeting in that coffee house in November 1794 was the result of much that had happened elsewhere. It drew together many separate strands. One strand goes as far back as 1741, to Philip Doddridge of Northampton.

Fifty years later came the revival of prayer in the Midlands which spread among the Baptist and Independent churches. The Warwickshire ministers set aside "the first Monday of every month at 7 o'clock for united prayer for the success of every attempt, made by all denominations of Christians for the spread of the Gospel."

Out of all those happenings great things have come for the happiness and welfare of millions.



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## Jacko Starts His Winter Sports



ONE morning Jacko awoke and saw to his delight that there had been a big fall of snow. He and Chimp lost no time in making a fine snowman, looking all the finer when they gave it a hat belonging to Adolphus. Then came the fun of pelting it with snowballs, a merry game that became all the merrier when Adolphus, rushing out to retrieve his hat, unfortunately got into their line of fire. Then it was surprising how often they managed to miss the snowman.

### BRIGHT

"JAMES, if Mr Smith should call this morning, tell him I will see him at four o'clock this afternoon."

"Yes, sir. But what shall I tell him if he doesn't call?"

### The Road to Happiness

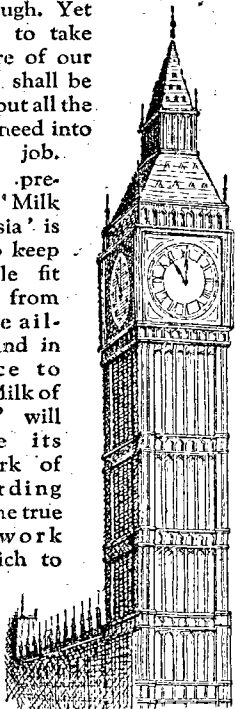
THE object of life is to be happy. The place to be happy is here.

The time to be happy is now. The way to be happy is by making others happy.

...when chimes  
the  
Victory hour...

... we shall have another job of work to tackle—winning the peace. It is a task that will call for new ideas and new energy. We have the sound good sense to see it through. Yet if we fail to take proper care of our health we shall be unable to put all the effort we need into this vital job.

At the present time 'Milk of Magnesia' is helping to keep the people fit and free from digestive ailments. And in the Peace to follow, 'Milk of Magnesia' will continue its good work of safeguarding health—the true groundwork upon which to build a better Britain.



'MILK OF MAGNESIA'

Trade mark of 'Phillips' preparation of magnesia.

### Nature News

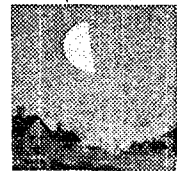
THE Black Hellebore, so called on account of the colour of its root, is in flower, and its large wasp-like white flowers are well known to everyone by the much prettier name of Christmas Roses. They last a long time in water.

The flower buds of its wild relation, the Setterwort, found in the south and east, can be seen now, though they will not come out until February.

Water snails, unlike their land kinsmen, carry on much the same kind of life in winter as in summer.

### Other Worlds

IN the morning Jupiter is in the south-east and Saturn is in the south-west. In the evening Venus is in the south-west, and Saturn and Uranus are in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 6.30 a.m. on Friday, December 8.



### ONE TOO MANY

AN absent-minded man, hurriedly summoned to interview his employer, snatched a hat from a hook near the door and carried it into the room without realising that he was already wearing one.

"And what do you propose to do with two hats?" asked the chief sarcastically.

"I am sorry, sir," replied the absent-minded one. "Two hats are indeed too many for a man who has lost his head."

## The Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, December 6, to Tuesday, December 12.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 Choral Exchange of songs and stories between the Ardwyn County School Girls' Choir, Aberystwyth, and a school in Northern Island.

THURSDAY, 5.20 Young Artists; followed by From America—Chief Blue Cloud, Clifford Hayes, a Canadian Bush Pilot, tells the story of his friendship with an old Red Indian Chief.

FRIDAY, 5.20 The Magic Bed-Knob or how to become a witch in three easy lessons, by Mary Norton, adapted by Peter Watts. Part 1—How it all started.

## The BRAN TUB

### HELPFUL

A FRENCH NAIL met a Hammer and in English tried to speak. "Oh, pardon, save! Perhaps you 'elp?"

A lodging's vat I seek."

The Hammer led him to a plank, And knocked him in—tap, tap! "I've found you lodging," he remarked, "And board as well, old chap!"

### A Proverb Problem

By replacing each dash with a letter four well-known proverbs will be formed:

A-a-m-y-o-k-t-k-n-  
F-n-f-a-h-r-m-k-f-  
n-b-r-s-  
I-s-l-n-l-n-t-a-h-s-o-  
-u-n-n-  
A-o-l-n-s-o-e-a-h-r-  
-n-m-s-  
Answer next week

### A Thrill For Shrimps

ELEVEN young shrimplets from Deal

Went a ride on a big conger eel, They said, "It is smart On a motor to start Without fear of losing a wheel!"

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Savage Shrews. The shrill squeaks from the hedge drew Don's attention. Investigating, he saw two mouse-like creatures fighting fiercely. Eventually they disappeared into the rank grass.

"They were only about two inches long," Don told Farmer Gray. "I've never seen such tiny mice before."

"They were shrews, Don, not mice," the farmer said. "They are noted for their savage, quarrelsome natures, and it is lucky that they are so small. They are easily distinguished from mice by their long, curved snouts and very tiny eyes. Cats will catch but not eat them, owing to a strong musky taste."

### DEAR, DEAR

It happened in the natural history class.

Teacher: What is the use of the reindeer?

Inattentive Pupil: Er—it makes everything in the garden grow.

## Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 A way through the mountains. 5 Forepart of a ship. 8 A person reputed to be uncommonly wise. 10 Say this to a goose. 11 Right. 12 A harvester. 14 To pull with great effort. 15 Request. 16 A work of fiction. 18 A title. 19 Many. 21 Juries. 23 Exist. 24 Indefinite article. 25 This slothful quadruped is something of a "yes man." 27 A celestial body. 28 To stop.

Reading Down. 1 A good place in a storm. 2 Skill. 3 South Africa. 4 Confused tussle in rugby. 5 Leguminous plant. 6 Stout. 7 Labour. 9 In a lawful manner. 13 A contract. 14 Lacerated. 16 Laughing. 17 Organs of smell. 18 Health resorts. 20 To judge, or believe. 22 This organ has a drum. 23 A run without a hit. 26 Preposition.

Asterisks indicate abbreviations. Answer next week

### A GOODLY DEED

HE who has planted a tree before his death has not lived in vain.

### Can You Guess This?

THOUGH different things, I sound the same. I am the rule of monarch crowned.

Also I guide a quadruped. Lastly, I quench the thirsty ground.

Answer next week

### Making Map Pictures

MANY countries on the map look rather like everyday things, and some resemble animals.

Ireland is like a shaggy dog, and South America can quite easily be turned into a bearded monkey.

While away a winter evening by seeing how clever you can be with other parts of the map, or make the game a competition for a party.



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